

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA**

IN RE: PORK ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Case No. 0:18-cv-01776-JRT-JFD

This Document Relates To:

ALL ACTIONS BROUGHT BY
COMMERCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL
INDIRECT PURCHASER PLAINTIFF
CLASS AND CONSUMER INDIRECT
PURCHASER PLAINTIFF CLASS

**DEFENDANT SEABOARD
FOODS LLC'S AMENDED
AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES TO
CIIPP & CIPP COMPLAINTS**

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

Seaboard does not concede that it has the burden of proof on any defense set forth below. Seaboard reserves the right to assert any additional affirmative or avoidance defenses as may become applicable and apparent during the course of this action.

FIRST DEFENSE

Plaintiffs fail, in whole or in part, to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

SECOND DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because any alleged injuries and damages were not legally or proximately caused by any acts or omissions of Defendants and/or were caused, if at all, solely and proximately by the conduct of Plaintiffs themselves or third parties including, without limitations, the prior, intervening or superseding conduct of such Plaintiffs or third parties.

THIRD DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of any putative class members are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiffs failed to mitigate any damages they may have suffered.

FOURTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of any putative class members are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of waiver.

FIFTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of any putative class members are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of estoppel.

SIXTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of any putative class members are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of laches.

SEVENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of any putative class members are barred, in whole or in part, by the applicable statute of limitations.

EIGHTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims and the claims of any putative class members are barred, in whole or in part, due to the ratification of, and consent to, the conduct of Seaboard.

NINTH DEFENSE

Without admitting the existence of any contract, combination or conspiracy in restraint of trade, and expressly denying same, Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by non-settling Defendants' right to set off any amounts paid to Plaintiffs by any Defendants who have settled, or do settle, Plaintiffs' claims against them in this action.

TENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent they seek improper multiple damage awards, and damage awards duplicative of those sought in other actions,

in violation of the Due Process guarantees of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

ELEVENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Seaboard's conduct did not cause harm to competition in any relevant market.

TWELFTH DEFENSE

To the extent Plaintiffs claim that Seaboard fraudulently concealed any actions, Plaintiffs have failed to allege this fraud with the particularity required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9(b).

THIRTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because any alleged anti-competitive effects of the conduct alleged by Plaintiffs do not outweigh the pro-competitive benefits.

FOURTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because of the *Copperweld* doctrine.

FIFTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Seaboard acted unilaterally, in furtherance of its independent business interests.

SIXTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because any contracts or agreements between Seaboard and any other person were lawful business arrangements and cannot support a claim that Seaboard engaged in any unlawful conspiracy.

SEVENTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, because they did not suffer antitrust injury or injury-in-fact.

EIGHTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' damages claims are barred, in whole or in part, because they have suffered no damages or because the damages they seek are speculative and uncertain.

NINETEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrines of *in pari delicto*, involvement, participation, equal involvement, complete involvement, and unclean hands.

TWENTIETH DEFENSE

Seaboard adopts by reference any applicable defense pleaded by any other Defendant that is not otherwise expressly set forth in this Answer.

TWENTY-FIRST DEFENSE

Seaboard reserves the right to assert other defenses as this action proceeds up to and including the time of trial.

TWENTY-SECOND DEFENSE

Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent Plaintiffs seek to impose liability on Seaboard based on the exercise of any person or entity's right to petition federal, state, and local legislative bodies, because such conduct was immune under the *Noerr-Pennington* doctrine and privileged under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Dated: September 1, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William D. Thomson

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